

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02827 021110Z
ACTION IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UR, ILO, ELAB, PINR
SUBJECT: SOVIET PARTICIPATION AT ILO GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. DURING MARCH 1 CALL AT SOVIET CENTRAL TRADE UNION HEAD-
QUARTERS (AUCCTU) ON OTHER MATTERS, EMBOFFS PICKED UP SOME
INFORMATION CONCERNING SOVIET PARTICIPATION AT AND PLANS FOR
FORTHCOMING ILO CONFERENCE WHICH WE TRANSMIT FOR POSSIBLE USE
BY ADDRESSEES. SOVIET DELEGATION, WHICH WILL DEPART MOSCOW
FOR GENEVA MARCH 2, IS HEADED BY USSR TRADE UNION CENTRAL
BOARD CHAIRMAN A.8. SHIBAYEV, WHO, AS ADDRESSES AWARE, HAS
HELD CURRENT POST LESS THAN SIX MONTHS AND DOES NOT APPEAR
TO HAVE BROUGHT MUCH PERSONAL PRESTIGE OR BUREAUCRATIC CLOUT
TO TRADE UNION ORGANIZATION. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TRADE
UNION INTERNATIONAL DIVISION CHIEF G.Y. KANAYEV, WHO WE UNDER-
STAND IS SPECIALIST IN ILO MATTERS. A THIRD MEMBER OF THE
DELEGATION IS IGOR YOURGENS, A YOUNG, PERSONABLE STAFFER ON LOAN
TO AUCCTU FROM MFA. YOURGENS, WHO WILL PROBABLY DO MOST IF
NOT ALL PERSONAL INTERPRETING FOR SOVIETS, HAS TRAVELLED TO
WEST FREQUENTLY, SPEAKS FINE ENGLISH, AND MIGHT BE A
USEFUL MISSION CONTACT.

2. DURING OUR MEETING, AUCCTU INTERNATIONAL SECTION CHIEF
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V.E. MOZHAYEV SPELLED OUT BRIEFLY SOVIET VIEWS OF MARCH 1974
EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFERENCE AND EXPECTATIONS FOR THIS ONE:
MOZHAYEV NOTED THAT THE EARLIER CONFERENCE, WHILE IT HAD HAD
NO FIXED AGENDA, HAD DEALT PRIMARILY WITH ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AND WORKER SAFETY. THE SOVIETS, MOZHAYEV NOTED,
HAD RETURNED FROM THAT CONFERENCE AND IMPLEMENTED MANY SUGGESTIONS
WHICH WERE MADE THERE. NOW, SOVIETS HOPE THEIR EXPERIENCES AND

THOSE OF OTHER PARTICIPANTS CAN FORM THE BASIS FOR CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR EUROPE AS A WHOLE, ADDITIONALLY, MOZHAYEV SAID SOVIETS EXPECT DISCUSSION OF TRADE UNION EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS AND CADRE TRAINING PROGRAMS, TO WHICH THEY WOULD MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. OTHER ITEMS THE SOVIETS SEE AS POSSIBLE INCLUDE SOCIAL SECURITY, SOCIAL INSURANCE, WAGES AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF LABOR.

3. FURTHERMORE, MOZHAYEV NOTED, SOVIET TRADE UNIONS ARE INVOLVED IN "FRINGE" QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DISARMAMENT (E.G., TECHNICAL UNEMPLOYMENT, THE CONSEQUENCES OF WHICH "IT IS NECESSARY TO THINK OUT THOROUGHLY."

4. COMMENT. WE CANNOT OF COURSE PREDICT WHICH OF TOPICS IN PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE THE SOVIETS MIGHT CHOOSE TO RAISE OR VIGOROUSLY PURSUE IN GENEVA, SINCE WE HAVE LITTLE BACKGROUND OTHER THAN WHAT THE SOVIETS THEMSELVES HAVE PROVIDED. IT IS PERHAPS WORTH NOTING, HOWEVER, THAT YOURGENS, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY THE SOVIET DELEGATION, WAS PRESENT DURING OUR DISCUSSION WITH MOZHAYEV AND DID NOT DEMUR AT ANY POINTS HIS SUPERIOR RAISED. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO RECEIVE SUCH GENERAL SUMMARY REPORTING AS MISSION DEEMS USEFUL ON THIS AND OTHER ILO GATHERINGS INVOLVING SOVIETS. END COMMENT.
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